

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the amendment filed on March 01, 2010.
2. Claims 1-4 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-4 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The most pertinent prior art known by the Examiner is listed in the attached form PTO-1449. The closest reference is Sawada *et al.* (JP, 2002-0284) that relate to a process for preparing colloidal crystals and colloidal crystal gels. However, the reference of Sawada *et al.*, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or fairly suggest the claimed colloidal crystal preparation process (or colloidal crystal gel process), wherein the process comprises, in particular, "a step of forming a gas pulse from a compressed gas by using gas pulse formation means and outputting the formed gas pulse" and "a step of applying the gas pulse whose pressure rise phase and constant pressure phase make a colloidal solution to flow and whose pressure drop phase stops the flow of the colloidal solution to a colloidal crystal preparation vessel having a flat plate capillary portion" ; or the claimed colloidal crystal preparation system (or colloidal crystal gel preparation system), wherein the system comprises, in particular, "gas pulse formation means for forming a gas pulse whose pressure rise phase and constant pressure phase make a colloidal solution to flow and whose pressure drop phase stops the flow of the colloidal solution and outputting the formed gas pulse" as the recited claims. Accordingly,

the presently claimed invention as defined by claims 1-4 is patentable with respect to prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Examiner Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bijan Ahvazi, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571)270-3449. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:0-5:0. (Off every other Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Y. Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BA/
Bijan Ahvazi,
Examiner

/Ling-Siu Choi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796

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04/07/2010